

NRD WATER QUALITY PROGRAM AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA BIENNIAL REVIEW SUMMARY



Management Area: Umpqua Basin

Meeting Date(s): September 13, 2012

LAC Members Present: Ken Ferguson, Lee Russell, Paul Heberling, Don Kruse, George Sandberg (chair), Janice Tetreault, Carol Whipple

Implementation Summary (2010 - 2011)

Outreach and Education:

Douglas & Umpqua SWCDs:

• Workshops sponsored or co-sponsored: 9

• Presentations at public events: 20

• Tours: 11

• Displays Manned @ events: 21

Student Events: 18, attended by 1,957 students

Newsletters mailed: 25,725
Fact sheets distributed: 1314
Newspaper articles published: 14

Planning and Projects:

Douglas & Umpqua SWCDs:

Landowner Contacts: 2,209

Site visits: 318

Conservation Plans written: 27

Projects completed with direct water quality benefit: 70

Funding and Grants:

Applications submitted for funds utilizing ODA TA/LMA funds:

o Douglas SWCD: 45

o Umpqua SWCD: 13

• ODA/OWEB support to LAC: \$98,000 per District to accomplish the annual Scope of Work, plus \$18,000 per District in administrative funding.

Progress Measurement: Morgan Creek (Lookingglass Creek Watershed) is the first Priority/Focus Area in the Umpqua Ag Water Quality Management Area. Outreach, Education, Technical Assistance, and Fund/Cost-share seeking resources are being focused in this geographic area with the intent of the progress that agriculture can make in implementing the AgWQMA Plans when provided with available resources. This watershed is upstream of the public drinking water intake for the towns of Winston and Dillard. The water quality at the intake is impaired by sediment and bacteria levels. In addition to the utilization of ODA TA/LMA grant funds, a DEQ 319 grant is also being used to assist with the effort to improve water quality related to agriculture in this subwatershed.

Summary of Impediments: •There is a lack of awareness of Plan, Rules, and Oregon's AgWQ Program. •The agricultural community is skeptical that implementation of currently recommended BMPs will actually improve water quality. The science has changed over time. Landowners were advised to remove large wood and willows from streams, now they are told to plant trees and add large wood placements. •Some water quality standards may not be achievable. •It takes awhile for people to gain trust. •People are doing good projects to improve water quality on their land and that information is not being captured/recorded. •Limited funding for implementation.

Recommendations for Modifications: Multiple members of the LAC recommend more education and outreach to the ag community regarding the Plan, Rules, and Oregon's AgWQ Program. Recommended strategies include: Implement the O&E described in the Plan document/Add Plan and Rules to SWCD websites/Provide Plan and Rules to assessors office for distribution with tax statements/Submit short articles to the Area newspapers to get people interested in the Plan & Rules/Provide LAC and Ag community with research and science that clearly show how implementing agricultural BMPs improves water quality/Let the ag community know that better and healthier water strengthens the local economy/Publish and utilize success stories/The LAC should meet more often.

Enforcement: Letter of Compliance -1 Water Quality Advisory -1 Letter of Warning -2 Notice of Noncompliance -1 Civil Penalty -0 Alternative Measures -0

Total Complaints: 5

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